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SUBJECT: BELGIUM: OCTOBER 22 GEORGIA DONORS' CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 109212

Poloff delivered reftel request for a generous contribution by Belgium at the October 22 Donors' Conference to Willy De Buck, Director for Central and Eastern Europe at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 15. De Buck noted that the GOB has already pledged 500,000 euros for Georgia's reconstruction. He said that depending on the needs elaborated at the Donors' Conference, Belgium is prepared to contribute more. He also recalled that the Belgians still have 400,000 euros left from a 1 million euro fund that is earmarked for water and sanitation projects in South Ossetia. Georgia has been reluctant to approve the disbursement of the remaining funds to the South Ossetian de facto government.

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